

**LIXELLUS LECONTE,
A NEW SYNONYM OF *LISTRONOTUS* JEKEL
(COLEOPTERA: CURCULIONIDAE)¹**

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ABSTRACT. *Lixellus* LeConte and its former synonyms *Anchodemus* LeConte, *Relistroides* Brèthes, and *Pseudhyperodes* Hustache, are placed in synonymy under *Listronotus* Jekel (NEW SYNONYMIES). *Listronotus* is diagnosed and compared to the South American genera *Neopachytychius* Hustache and *Haversiella* Schweiger. Eight species are transferred to *Listronotus* (all NEW COMBINATIONS): *L. bosqi* (Hustache), *L. breyeri* (Brèthes), *L. elongatus* (Hustache), *L. filiformis* (LeConte), *L. haldemani* (Burke), *L. hubbardi* (LeConte), *L. lutulentus* (Boheman), and *L. pusillus* (Hustache).

The weevil genera *Listronotus* and *Hyperodes* were established by Jekel (1865). Several authors (Henderson, 1940; Kuschel, 1962; Kissinger, 1964; O'Brien, 1977) considered them to be at best superficially separated. O'Brien (1979) analyzed the diagnostic characters of species assigned to both genera, and considered that the *Listronotus teretirostris* complex was intermediate between them. He concluded that only a single genus could be distinguished and placed *Hyperodes* in synonymy with *Listronotus*.

We have examined all species of *Lixellus* LeConte, which is supposedly related to *Listronotus*. Although species of the former form a monophyletic group, we were unable to find any apomorphic character that separates both genera. We believe that *Lixellus* merely represents a species group of *Listronotus*, and does not deserve generic status. Our objectives are to establish the synonymies involving these genera, to diagnose *Listronotus* for comparison with other Rhytirrhini, and to transfer to it the eight species of *Lixellus*.

Listronotus Jekel, 1865

Macrops Kirby, 1837:199 (not Wagler, 1830; not Burmeister, 1835; not available, type species not designated).

Listronotus Jekel, 1865:565 (type species: *Rhynchaenus caudatus* Say, 1824:311, subsequently designated by Henderson, 1940:231).

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- Hyperodes* Jekel, 1865:566 (type species: *Listroderes humilis* Gyllenhal, 1834:283, by original designation); LeConte, 1876:136 (= *Macrops*); Cockerell, 1906:243 (reinstated because of homonymy); O'Brien, 1979:267 (= *Listronotus*).
- Anchodemus* LeConte, 1876:181 (not Motschulsky, 1864; type species: *A. hubbardi* LeConte, 1876:181, subsequently designated by Kuschel, 1950:14). NEW SYNONYMY.
- Lixellus* LeConte, 1876:182 (type species: *L. filiformis* LeConte, 1876:182, by indication, monotypy); Kuschel, 1950:14 (= *Anchodemus*); Burke, 1963:167 (reinstated because of homonymy). NEW SYNONYMY.
- Mascarauxia* Desbrochers, 1898:52 (type species: *M. cyrtica* Desbrochers, 1898:52, by indication, monotypy); Hustache, 1921:134 (= *Hyperodes*).
- Relistroides* Brèthes, 1910:209 (type species: *R. breyeri* Brèthes, 1910:210, by indication, monotypy); Kuschel, 1950:14 (= *Anchodemus*). NEW SYNONYMY.
- Aulametopiellus* Brèthes, 1926:415 (type species: *A. dauci* Brèthes, 1926:416, by indication, monotypy); Hustache, 1939:48 (= *Hyperodes*).
- Mascaranxia* Bosq, 1935:330 (lapsus for *Mascarauxia*).
- Pseudhyperodes* Hustache, 1939:49 (type species: *P. elongatus* Hustache, 1939:49, by indication, monotypy); Kuschel, 1950:14 (= *Anchodemus*). NEW SYNONYMY.

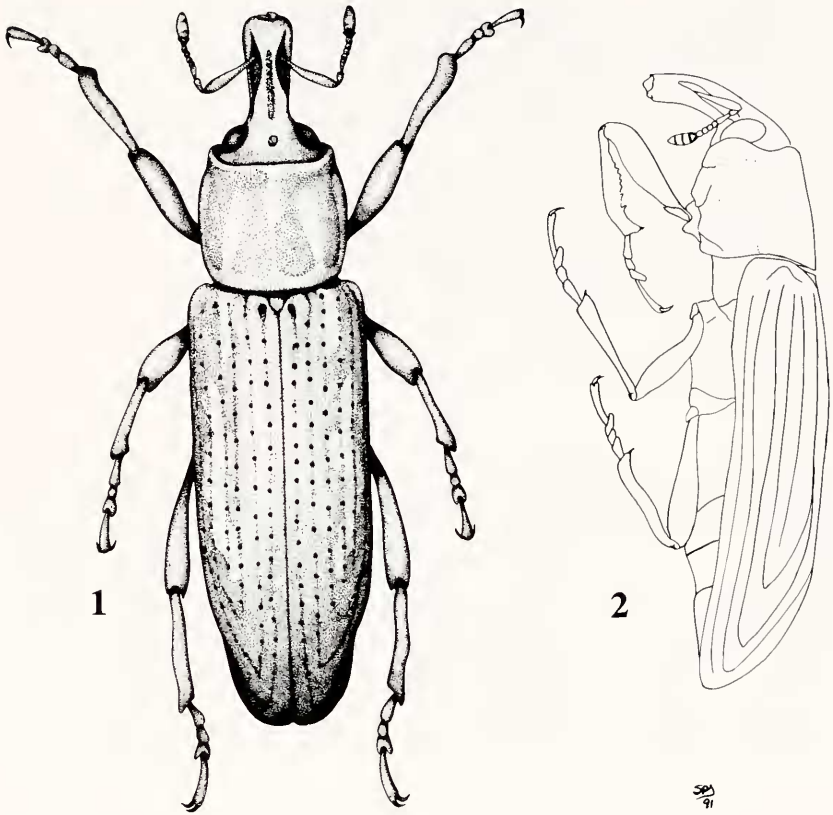
DIAGNOSIS

Listronotus is distinguished from other Rhytirrhini by the funicular article 1 being subequal or shorter than article 2. In addition, the following combination of characters is diagnostic: body vestiture consisting of subcircular to suboval scales and setae; frons with fovea; eyes ovate, medium-sized to large, lateral; rostrum long, slender, curved, non-sulcate, generally tricarinate; epistome not protruding; scrobes lateral, deep, reaching eyes; pterygia poorly developed; antenna with funicular articles 3-6 moniliform; club elongate; prothorax subtrapezoidal or subcylindrical, postocular lobes well-developed; scutellum visible; metepisternal suture distinct; elytra ovate to elongate-ovate, convex to flattened; legs with clavate femora; and tibiae subcylindrical, mucronate, often with spurs.

COMPARATIVE NOTES

The eight species herein transferred to *Listronotus* have a similar aspect, basically due to their conspicuous elongate-ovate elytra. Their separation as a distinct genus *Lixellus*, however, would leave *Listronotus* paraphyletic, an unacceptable situation under modern systematic standards.

Within the American Rhytirrhini, *Listronotus* is related to *Neopachytychius* Hustache (Marvaldi, 1994), and *Haversiella* Schweiger (Morrone, 1994), based on the long, slender, and curved rostrum, the deep scrobes, and the undeveloped pterygia. *Neopachytychius* is distinguished from *Listronotus* by its characteristic globose prothorax, and its long and slender pharyngeal process. *Haversiella* lacks postocular lobes and lacinial teeth in the maxillary mala. Outside the Americas, other genera related to *Listronotus* are *Palaech-*



Figs. 1, 2. *Listrionotus bosqi* (Hustache), male habitus. 1, dorsal view; 2, lateral view. Scale = 1 mm.

tus Waterhouse, *Inaccodes* Brinck, *Gunodes* Brinck, *Tristanodes* Brinck, and *Palaechtodes* Brinck, all endemic to Tristan da Cunha-Gough islands (Morrone, 1994). *Listrionotus* and its allied genera belong in the tribe Rhytirrhinini, which was formerly placed in the Brachycerinae (Kuschel, 1990) and recently transferred to the Somatodinae (Morrone and Roig Juárez, 1995).

O'Brien and Askevold (1992) proposed that the genus *Bagous* Germar may be related to *Listrionotus*. O'Brien *et al.* (1994), however, concluded that *Bagous* is not related to any Rhytirrhinini, and placed it in Molytini, indicating that the earlier proposal was based on presumed convergent character.

SPECIES INCLUDED

Listronotus formerly contained 85 Central and North American species (O'Brien and Wibmer, 1982) and 24 South American species (Wibmer and O'Brien, 1986). Synonymy of *Lixellus* brings the total of *Listronotus* species to 117.

South American species here transferred to *Listronotus*

L. bosqi (Hustache) 1926:216 (Figs. 1, 2). NEW COMBINATION.

L. breyeri (Brèthes) 1910:210. NEW COMBINATION.

L. elongatus (Hustache) 1939:49. NEW COMBINATION.

L. pusillus (Hustache) 1926:215. NEW COMBINATION.

North American species here transferred to *Listronotus*

L. filiformis (LeConte) 1876:181. NEW COMBINATION.

L. haldemani (Burke) 1963:167. NEW COMBINATION.

L. hubbardi (LeConte) 1876:181 NEW COMBINATION.

L. lutulentus (Boheman) 1843:165. NEW COMBINATION.

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